

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LAGOS 05529 01 OF 02 030722Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /048 W  
-----005290 030726Z /11  
R 021550Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8254  
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN  
AMCONSUL KADUNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 LAGOS 5529

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, NI  
SUBJECT: MORE RUMORS IN LAGOS

REF: LAGOS 5450

1. SUMMARY: LAGOS REMAINED FAIRLY QUIET MONDAY MAY 1 EXCEPT FOR A DEMONSTRATION BY BERGER WORKERS. RUMORS CIRCULATED THAT STUDENTS WERE ATTEMPTING TO ORGANIZE A MARCH ON DODAN BARRACKS TUESDAY MAY 2. EMBOFF WHO VISITED SCENE OF FRIDAY'S RIOTS MONDAY EVENING SAW NO SIGNS OF POLICE. THE DAILY TIMES REPORTED POLICE WERE OUT IN FORCE IN ABEOKUTA BECAUSE OF RUMORED PROBLEMS AND THERE WERE SOME CLASHES. IF THE RUMORED DEMONSTRATION IN LAGOS DOES COME OFF THERE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE ANOTHER CLASH WITH POLICE. THE BERGER DEMONSTRATION ON MONDAY AND THE ARREST OF TWO UNION OFFICIALS COULD ALSO GENERATE GREATER CONCERN AMONG WORKERS. END SUMMARY.

2. LAGOS REMAINED FAIRLY QUIET MONDAY MAY 1 EXCEPT FOR REPORTED DEMONSTRATIONS BY JULIUS BERGER  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LAGOS 05529 01 OF 02 030722Z

WORKERS AT THEIR OFFICES. THE DEMONSTRATION WAS A PROTEST AGAINST INCREASED PAYMENTS TO THE NATIONAL PROVIDENT FUND (NPF). THIS GOVERNMENT DECISION HAS BEEN THE SOURCE OF CONTINUING UNHAPPINESS AMONG WORKERS AND WE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE MINISTRY OF LABOR WAS SEEKING GOVERNMENT APPROVAL TO DELAY IMPOSITION OF INCREASED FEES.

ACCORDING TO THE NEW NIGERIAN ABOUT 600 BERGER EMPLOYEES "STORMED" THE COMPANY OFFICES AT IJORA IN THREE TRAILERS CHANTING WAR SONGS AND DEMANDED REPAYMENT OF THEIR TAXES AND NPF CONTRIBUTIONS DEDUCTED THE PREVIOUS SATURDAY. REPORTEDLY STONES WERE HURLED THROUGH WINDOWS, AT LEAST 36 VEHICLES DAMAGED AND OFFICE WORKERS FLED.

3. AS REPORTED YESTERDAY THE LAGOS BUS SYSTEM WAS FUNCTIONING AGAIN, ALTHOUGH THERE APPEAR TO BE FEWER BUSES THAN NORMAL. ACCORDING TO NEWS MEDIA AND CONTACTS ARMED SOLDIERS AND POLICE HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO EACH BUS TO FORESTALL INCIDENTS. DAILY TIMES ALSO REPORTED THAT ARMED TROOPS PATROLLED THE RIOT AREAS. HOWEVER, EMBOFF WHO VISITED RIOT AREA LAST NIGHT SAW NO SIGNS OF POLICE OR TROOPS AND SITUATION APPEARED NORMAL WITH PEDESTRIANS AND TRADERS WANDERING ACROSS STREETS, BLOCKING THOROUGHFARES AND VEHICLES ROARING THROUGH IN THE USUAL NIGERIAN MANNER.

4. PRESS REPORTED THAT MANY SCHOOLS IN LAGOS WERE "VIRTUALLY EMPTY" MONDAY AS PARENTS KEPT THEIR CHILDREN HOME. ONE EMBASSY EMPLOYEE REPORTED THAT HIS CHILDREN HAD BEEN SENT HOME BY TEACHERS WHO HEARD RUMORS OF MORE DISTURBANCES. RUMORS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LAGOS 05529 01 OF 02 030722Z

CIRCULATED MONDAY AFTERNOON THAT STUDENTS WERE ATTEMPTING TO ORGANIZE A MARCH ON DODAN BARRACKS TUESDAY MAY 2.

5. DAILY TIMES REPORTED THAT ARMED POLICEMENT WERE IN "STRATEGIC AREAS" OF ABEOKUTA YESTERDAY TO "FORESTALL ANY LIKELY DISORDER." SHOPS WERE CLOSED, SOME SCHOOLS WERE CLOSED, TAXIS DID NOT OPERATE AND MANY MOTORISTS STAYED OFF THE ROADS. OGUN STATE GOVERNOR LT. COL. ADYODELE BALOGUN REPORTEDLY APPEARED ON A SPECIAL BRADCAST SUNDAY NIGHT TO WARN OF "A PLAN BY SOME EVIL DOERS TO FOMENT TROUBLE IN THE TOWN UNDER THE CAMOUFLAGE OF THE PRESENT STUDENTS CRISIS." TIMES ALSO REPORTED SOME CLASHES AND THAT ABOUT 20 "UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS" WERE ARRESTED.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LAGOS 05529 02 OF 02 030706Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /048 W  
-----005245 030726Z /11

R 021550Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8255  
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN  
AMCONSUL KADUNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 LAGOS 5529

6. DEFENSE ATTACHE HEARD ON MONDAY THERE HAD BEEN A MEETING WITH SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS WHO WERE ASKED TO IDENTIFY NON-STUDENTS WHO HAD ENCOURAGED RECENT EVENTS. IN AN APPARENTLY RELATED EVENT, SKETCH REPORTED THAT FOUR LECTURERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN, DR. BADE ONIMODE, DR. WALE ADENIRAN, "COMRADE" OLA ONI AND O. ONOGE HAD BEEN "INVITED" BY SECURITY MEN TO ASSIST IN AN "UNDISCLOSED INVESTIGATION." THREE OF THESE MEN ARE WELL KNOWN LEFTISTS AND TWO ARE OFFICIALS OF THE UNION OF ACADEMIC STAFF OF NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES--ONIMODE IS PRESIDENT AND ADENIRAN IS SECRETARY. ALL FOUR WERE REPORTED TO HAVE SPOKEN IN FAVOR OF THE STUDENTS DURING THE CRISIS. ON APRIL 17 "COMRADE" OLI REPORTEDLY ADDRESSED DEMONSTRATING STUDENTS AND DESCRIBED THEIR ACTIONS AS "A LANDMARK IN THE EVOLUTION OF FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS."

7. ON THE LEGAL FRONT SEGUN OKEOWO HAS FILED SUIT AGAINST JUSTICE UDO UDOMA, CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, ASKING THAT HE BE RESTRAINED FROM PREVENTING OKEOWO FROM PARTICIPATING IN ASSEMBLY  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LAGOS 05529 02 OF 02 030706Z

PROCEEDINGS.

8. COMMENT: THE SITUATION REMAINED QUIET IN LAGOS TUESDAY MORNING. IF STUDENTS REMAIN AT

HOME AGAIN TODAY IT WILL MAKE EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE A  
DEMONSTRATION DIFFICULT. HOWEVER, IF DEMONSTRATORS DO  
ATTEMPT TO MARCH ON DODAN BARRACKS WE WOULD ANTICIPATE  
ANOTHER CONFRONTATION WITH THE POLICE. THE REPORTED  
DEMONSTRATION OF BERGER WORKERS IS A BAD SIGN BECAUSE  
NPF PAYMENTS WERE ONE OF THE ISSUES WHICH MINISTRY OF  
LABOR THOUGHT IT HAD DEALT WITH SUCCESSFULLY LAST  
WEEK WHEN AN OFFICIAL SAID HE HAD "NIPPED IN THE BUD" A  
GENERAL STRIKE. WHILE THE DETENTION OF LECTURERS IN  
IBADAN MAY NOT HAVE WIDER IMPLICATIONS, TWO OF THEM ARE  
OFFICIALS OF A SENIOR STAFF UNION. EVEN THOUGH THE  
UNION IS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH THE NIGERIA LABOR CONGRESS,  
THE DETENTION COULD THUS SPARK OTHER WORKER DISCONTENT.  
END COMMENT.  
WYMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, DETENTION, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978LAGOS05529  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780188-0281  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** LAGOS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t197805103/aaaadjqt.tel  
**Line Count:** 185  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 493dd593-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 LAGOS 5450  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2520803  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MORE RUMORS IN LAGOS  
**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, PINS, ELAB, NI, (OKEOWO, SEGUN), (ONIMODE, BADE), (ADENIRAN, WALE), (ONI, OLA), (ONOG, O)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/493dd593-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014